“Our mission as leaders for this time is as simple as it is ancient: community. This is what we do best; this is what we have always done through all our ministries. We lead for community. There is nothing more important, more radical, more necessary for us than to lean into our apostolic call to nurture and foster community wherever we find it, wherever we are, with whatever means we have, whether it is prayer, solidarity, presence, sponsorship, or our blessing.”

Sister Teresa Maya, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, 2018 LCWR Presidential Address

Teresa Maya spoke with clarity and urgency to participants at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious this year as she embraced the theme of Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion. Her elaboration on the power of communion reflects so well on the work of NACAR as associates and religious recognize their increased sense of community with one another.

Whether it is gatherings of local associate groups, congregational assemblies, or regional workshops for NACAR affiliated groups, associate leadership accepts the challenge. There is determination to plan collaborative actions, minister in local settings and/or offer commentary to diocesan and national publications. The voices and presence of associates in mission with religious congregations is vibrant and forward moving.

Each issue of The Associate as well as the NACAR Facebook page and website highlights the news and reflective thinking that is present and is proclaimed in these days. We foster the sense of community rather than tumultuous individuality. Please join our NACAR effort to build and share in the LCWR mission “in prayer, solidarity, presence, sponsorship, or our blessing.”

Associate Conni Dubick, Dominican Sisters of Peace, NACAR board member
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Past issues of *The Associate* can be found on the NACAR website for members.

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### Mission
The North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) is a membership organization that acts as a catalyst to serve, empower and promote the associate-religious relationship.

### Vision Statement
A vibrant, viable organization that collaborates with regional partners to promote association in all its forms.

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Beyond Education, Beyond Expectation

Associate Nancy Davis, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

At age 22, Lannie Davis-Frecker knew when she stepped into Julie Billiart School that she was where she was supposed to be; after all, her grandmother was educated by the Sisters of Notre Dame. It was her first teaching assignment in Ohio; she was ready to be a special education teacher; she was curious and excited to be working with the Sisters of Notre Dame. She was not disappointed. She worked alongside Sister Sharon, worlds apart in experience and age, and yet came to realize how dedicated the sisters lives were and how impactful their mission was. She recalls “If I could do only one half of what they do in my life, then I know I will have done God’s work.”

Ten years later, Lannie, has become the president/CEO of the Julie Billiart Schools Network. What is impressive about these years working at Julie Billiart is Lannie’s professional growth and, as she notes quickly, her spiritual journey. When Lannie was asked to lead the organization as president, she immediately chose to be an associate of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sister Agnesmarie, the then-retiring president of 30 years, drew her close during Lannie’s time of transition from teacher to president. Sister would remind Lannie, it doesn’t matter what age you are, it’s your dedication. Lannie came to know she had a mission. She told me, “If I am going to have a leadership role for Julie Billiart, I need to deeply understand the Sisters’ charism. I want our schools to thrive, recognizing and emulating what and where the Sisters started. They didn’t ask for anything as they served God’s precious children. Their humility is so inspiring and it has changed my life.”

“My husband is a vital part of this journey,” she adds. She smiles as she describes how she married one day and became an associate the next day. She comments, “Tim calls me a ‘wanna-be nun,’” giving her support on their shared spiritual journey. “We share with God in our 15-month-old daughter’s co-creation.”

Lannie explained that the Sisters’ charism has taken hold in their motto, “beyond education, beyond expectation.” With a special needs child, a family can become broken giving an inordinate amount of attention to that child. She describes one student who, when he came to the school, wasn’t sleeping through the night. “Within weeks, he was sleeping all night and in his own bed. We helped him belong and feel part of the school community. We work as closely with the family as we do with the children to build and transfer skills for our kids to be successful.”

Lannie concludes, “The sisters are relying on us associates to extend their charism into the future. I am proud to be part of it.”

Julie Billiart Schools Network

Around for over 60 years, the Julie Billiart School in Cleveland, Ohio, provides Catholic education for students with learning differences. In 2017, Davis-Frecker, along with the board of directors and the Sisters of Notre Dame, formed the Julie Billiart Schools Network which serves as the supporting body of all their learning facilities. One expansion school was open in 2017 in Akron, Ohio, and additional schools for children with autism, ADD/ADHD, dyslexia and social learning challenges are planned. The school system is named after St. Julie Billiart, the spiritual mother of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

More information about the Schools can be found at www.juliebilliartschool.org, and their Facebook page, facebook.com/JulieBilliartSchools.
The Associate Movement
A Future Rich with Hope

Mark Piper, director of association, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Midwest West Community

The following is a personal segment that comes from a larger article Mark Piper wrote on the associate movement. The entire article can be found in the National Catholic Reporter, August 23, 2018. Mark writes a young voices column for the National Catholic Reporter.

My wife, Regina, and I are part of the 3,400 Mercy Associates within the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; since 2013 there have been more associates than sisters in this institute, and this is becoming more common among the 300+ congregations that have associates. And the 3,400 Mercy Associates are but a fraction of the nearly 60,000 associates across the United States and Canada from over 300 men’s and women’s religious congregations.

I wanted to be a part of something, and I wanted that something to develop my Catholic spirituality, in communion with others, and I wanted to make a difference in both prayer and service. A do-gooder at heart I suppose. My sense of being called to Mercy happened even before I knew what association was. When I was a junior at Saint Xavier University I was part of the first Mercy International Service Trip and in the lead up to that trip two Sisters of Mercy from the office for mission and heritage explained what Mercy is, why one should be of service and to be of service in a collaborative rather than domineering manner. Additionally, one session was on Catherine McAuley, and the beginnings of the House of Mercy, which she chose to open for the poor, destitute or otherwise discarded women of Dublin on the wealthy Baggot Street — literally connecting the rich with the poor. I thought, that’s it. That makes sense. How can I do this in my own life? About a year later I learned about association and a year after that I was in the associate orientation program in Chicago – my mentor was the same Sister of Mercy, Joy Clough, who told us the story of Catherine McAuley and the House of Mercy.

Likewise, my wife decided to become an associate after her year of volunteer service with Mercy Volunteer Corps. We wanted to stay in the Mercy family as it were, and know that our time and talents would be put to good use serving the poor, sick or uneducated in this association. It was that original mission of Mercy, and the fact that the sisters and associates we saw had integrity, fidelity and joyfulness about their works of mercy. We saw vibrancy and integrity of mission, and we were welcomed into being a part of that.
On Grace

Saving Our Lives

Associat Terri Butel, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, director of associates

“We are blessed with these inner rhythms that tell us where we are, and where we are going. No matter, then, our 50- and 60-hour work weeks, the refusing to stop for lunch, the bypassing sleep and working deep into the darkness. If we stop, if we return to rest, our natural state reasserts itself. Our natural wisdom and balance come to our aid, and we can find our way to what is good, necessary, and true.”

Wayne Muller, Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives

Since August 2011 when I became director of associates for the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, I have had a deepening awareness of and appreciation for grace … it’s a word I use to describe evidence of God walking with us, right in the mess of our real lives. For the previous 16 years, I managed a pathology lab and practice, and the stress and noise kept me from recognizing little signs of grace, which are abundant and common. I simply had no time or energy to reflect and notice.

Grace came to me in 2009 when at a weekend retreat for associates, I ran into Sister Marie, a former college professor. She asked, “Still doing that crazy job of yours?” I was shocked she knew — clearly, the word was out about my nutcase pace! I smiled and nodded, and she said, “I’ve got something for you to read. I’ll mail a copy to you.” A week later, the envelope arrived. I pulled out the brief article and glanced at it, but felt too busy to settle down to read it.

Nearly a year and a half later, on my way to a minivacation, I looked for the envelope that Sister Marie had sent. I was going to be installed in 10 days as the president of a medical management group and thought that the article might give me inspiration for a short speech I needed to make.

It might help me and my fellow stressed out medical managers, who occasionally reassured themselves after a wearying project and crazy hours by saying, “saving lives, we’re just saving lives.”

I delivered the short acceptance speech, which I called “Saving our Lives,” to the managers on the day of my installation, including Wayne Muller’s quote, mentioning that the word darkness can mean much more than the sun has gone down.

I would call Sister Marie’s article a gift of grace. I wasn’t ready to read the article when I received it, but I knew where that envelope was and moved it around for 15 months, finally picking it up for our mini trip not even knowing whether the article would be important.

I served as president of the medical managers group until July 12, 2011, the last day of my job working for the pathologists, maintaining the theme “saving our lives,” which was its own grace that helped me discern to leave my 30-year career in the medical field.

My awareness of the moments of grace continue as I have entered into this ministry of presence. Sometimes they are the smallest things — a dream, a chance encounter, connections that may as well be illuminated stepping stones, the very particular words a person speaks. And I am convinced … grace surrounds every one of us, every day — humbling evidence that the God of all sees us, cherishes us and walks with us in love.
Wisdom Seekers Together

Associate Vicki Perfect shares how her association with a Dominican Sister made an impact on her life.

It was quiet. As I stepped across the doorway her eyes opened. “Oh it’s you! C’mon in.” She nodded to the chair by the vacant bed across the room. “Bring that chair over.” The quick, curt command was reminiscent of many I had known since my first day of ninth grade religion class with Dominican Sister of Peace Dorothy Sarachene at the helm.

“I did not mean to waken you.”

“Oh don’t worry I will have plenty of time to sleep,” the irony chuckled low in her voice as she wrestled with the IV in an attempt to sit up. Though I knew she was in pain I could not get used to the idea that these were her last few days.

Dorothy did not like maudlin scenes so she bypassed the traditional amenities and plunged immediately into queries about my son, grandkids, mom and others. These ritualistic conversations stemming from years of lunches, dinners and walks were tinged with intellectual bantering that eventually led us to sharing our most recent spiritual insights and challenges. Each visit with Dorothy was a spiritual maze of intrigue and wonder, a fascinating adventure filled with growth opportunities if one were quick enough to recognize them. Today Dorothy did not disappoint.

“We need to talk about something.”

“Sure, go ahead.”

“You need to write another prayer book.” I inhaled deeply. Dorothy was well aware of my lagging interest in writing. I had created three prayer books using my stone carvings and prayer poetry and believing that the series had pretty much served its purpose, I suspended that activity four years ago. “You need to write another prayer book and you need to use the owl.”

I was still without words as my mind tracked the trajectory of her thought. This past year I carved an owl from a rich green and mauve colored alabaster. It was a quizzical looking character and Dorothy had fallen for its questioning eyes. When I had unveiled it she stroked every inch of its being as if it were a sacred object in and of itself.

Then before I could speak she added one last element, “And you need to make this one happy!” The request, now a punctuation mark, was aimed directly at my heart and soul. Finished she fell back into the pillow and asked, “OK?”

I realized I was holding my breath, listening for words that would mitigate my shock, soothe the awareness of impending loss and uphold my ultimate respect and love for this woman. As the twinkle in her eye expanded and a grin glittered with joy spread across her face I knew what to say.

I slowly measured each word. “Well, you are not being very fair here. I mean, c’mon, Dorothy. Really? You are literally lying here on your death-bed and asking me to write a prayer book I do not want to write. What am I suppose to say, no?”

Her eyes sparkled, laughter exploded and in that moment tears merged our souls together in grace and gratitude.

Sister Dorothy Sarachene died on June 29, 2017.


Visio divina is Latin for “contemplative seeing.” In Perfect Prayers, Wisdom Keeper the author, Vicki Perfect uses both stone carving and poetry as a means to pray through art and open oneself to the spirit within. Each prayer poem unfolds an inner awareness that invites the reader to listen, sit and contemplatively dialogue with patience and love. It is available online through Etsy at www.etsy.com/shop/PerfectInsights.
Improved NACAR Website Security

NACAR is pleased to inform its members that we have enhanced the security of our website. There are two ways that information is transferred between a website and your computer, tablet or mobile phone. One is Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), and the other is Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS). NACAR now uses HTTPS.

You can recognize a secure website in your browser address bar. Websites using HTTPS will begin with those letters. So, NACAR’s complete website address is now https://www.nacar.org. Web browsers will indicate that a website is secure by little symbol of a closed lock.

Anytime you interact with the NACAR website, you can be sure that any information is transmitted securely, such as when you register for the website, update your information, fill in any forms or surveys, make a comment or participate in our online forums. This change improves NACAR’s position in Google as well, providing us with consistent visibility. As you have in the past, you will enjoy all the features NACAR offers its members, knowing that the website is a friendly, safe environment to visit.

A Note to Francis

Associate Bev Oliveri, School Sisters of St. Francis

Francis, I came to your beloved Assisi and walked the streets of your youth. So many images came to mind, as I recalled the many stories I had read. You were a simple soul who rejected what was to show the world how it should be.

As I reflect on our world today, I wonder if we really heard you. Do we treasure Mother Earth as you did? Do we see all in creation as our brother, our sister? Have we become blind to the simple beauty of nature, taking for granted its very existence?

Have we become deaf to the cries of our brothers and sisters who, daily, experience the injustices of poverty, sadness, and rejection.

I pray that we can respond to your songs which have so enchanted the ears of our heart.

And with you let us cry:

Mother Earth, faithful servant of our Creator, your heart beats in the rhythm of the rain.

The seeds sown in your warm womb birth abundant harvest to nourish body and soul.

Our fragile home is seeking our attention, and demanding our assistance.

Francis, help us to always hear your song, inviting all creation to stop and listen.
BACAR DISCUSSION GROUPS

Moving to Action

At left, BACAR members explore how they can move to action to help those in need in the Bay Area.

been trying to find viable solutions. Today, we came together to see what role we as BACAR could do to connect with the city and other agencies.

Facilitated by Associate Penny Donovan, Sinsinawa Dominicans; Sister Elizabeth Avalos, Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and Associate Kathy Noether, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, several main topics were explored: Showers for the Homeless, Village House, Catholic Worker House: Casa de Clara, Safe Park, blessing bags and Hope Village.

• Showers for the Homeless are portable showers that can be moved to different sites for the homeless to take showers and get refreshed.

• Village House screens 15 women for about a month to offer them meals, showers, bedding and washing their clothes in a church or synagogue. This is a rotational service throughout the year to offer women a safe place and help them in moving forward in life.

• Catholic Worker House: Casa de Clara houses women who are marginal. “Currently the community offers hospitality to women and women with children, hot showers via a mobile shower trailer, immediate aid to those who come to our door, food to low income families in our neighborhood, monthly Eucharist celebrations, weekly prayer groups and activism and advocacy projects,” (www.sjcw.org).

• Safe Park allows homeless to park their cars overnight in a safe place, usually a church parking lot, without fear of being disturbed or robbed.

• Blessing Bags are zip-baggies filled with individual toiletries that can be given to the homeless anywhere – even while passing in your car at the street corner!
Regional Groups

- **Hope Village** is a privately funded encampment with a fenced in enclave of tents, portable toilets and sanitation stations. This particular project was tragically evicted in San Jose, but they are now looking for another site in the area.

Several other projects were discussed and the interaction during small group times saw that this was to be a seed for several other meetings and connections with coordinating agencies and city leaders. From these discussions, the groups came up with many suggestions for action:

1. Individuals could volunteer at Village House and see how that group works. This might give an incentive to form a group in your parish.

2. Groups could create Blessing Bags that can be given to those who need it. It would be helpful to gather a group together to bag the necessities. A list of the items in the Blessing Bags will be available at the BACAR website.

3. Members were encouraged to attend town hall meetings and ask their representative what are his/her plans to alleviate housing. They were also asked to go to their city council meetings or office and ask about housing projects for the low income.

4. When planning an event, members were asked to research where leftover food can be taken so that people will be prepared to receive the food.

5. Individuals were encouraged to invite a council person to the next discussion group so that he/she can hear from constituents about their concerns regarding housing and homelessness.

6. Members were asked to attend shower days at Casa de Clara on a Wednesday to see how they can help through food, clothes or just their presence at the shower community.

7. Finally, they should remember to pray for those who are homeless and for those who could share some of their abundance — either through renting a room in one’s home or providing low rent for rental properties.

Some of those present have been deeply involved with many of these projects and helped explore new ways to connect and involve more volunteers. For active giving, friends were asked to bring new underwear to be donated to Casa de Clara. Overflowing boxes were sent!

For more information, visit the BACAR website at [www.bacar2.org](http://www.bacar2.org). Already several truly motivated men and women are strategizing ways BACAR can be part of the solution for these people who are seeking to be recognized as people of need and support.

A list of items that should be included in Blessing Bags can be found at [www.bacar2.org](http://www.bacar2.org).
What Does God Require of Us?

Associate Conni Dubick, Dominican Sisters of Peace

It was a weekend retreat with the theme “What Does God Require of Us?” Sponsored by Ohio Nuns on the Bus, 35 sisters and associates from various Ohio congregations participated. We began with a prayer that said it all:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the God require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

For two days, the retreat conversations, facilitated by Dominican Associate of Peace, Renee Womack-Keels, executive director of Spirituality Network, Columbus, Ohio, challenged us to answer the question as a group and as individuals: “What is God calling me/us to do?”

Most of the participants were members of the Ohio Nuns on the Bus coalition formed in 2012 to support the movement begun by Sister Simone Campbell to promote a faithful budget as an alternative to the congressional budget. Since then, the Ohio sisters meet as “people of faith with a unique voice that needs to be heard in the public square.”

Participants determined the following topics as priorities for the coming year: immigration, environment, affordable housing and voter rights, with the recognition that systemic racism intersects with each of these issues with a most profound damaging effect. Local community collaborators who are ready to assist, offered specific potential strategies and actions for the Ohio Nuns on the Bus to consider. Public service announcements, town hall and city council meetings, rallies at detention centers, and interfaith care of creation committees are several existing actions.

The work discussed on this summer weekend needs the structure and commitment of associates/sisters ready to engage in existing or new projects. Thus, the question is ever present to each of us: “What does God require of me?”
NACAR Congregations

Love

Full of Action

Associate Judy Talvacchia, Society of the Holy Child Jesus

“Give me, O Lord, a love full of action; a love patient in labor, exact in daily employments, pure in intention, so that I may ever accomplish the things that are most pleasing to thee,” Sister Cornelia Connelly.

These words of our founder inspired the national gathering of Holy Child Associates, USA, this past June in Rosemont, Penn. Approximately 100 associates and sisters spent time sharing our four pillars of association, prayer, spiritual development, community and ministry, with a focus on how we express love through action.

Several associates shared their involvement with migrants and their issues, a priority of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Barbara DeConcini spoke about the institutional ministries that serve migrants. She is a board member of Providence Center in Philadelphia, a Society ministry offering services to immigrants living in North Philadelphia. She is a former board member of Casa Cornelia in San Diego where legal services are offered to immigrants. Anita Martineau described her personal involvement with a young woman from El Salvador and her newborn son, whom Anita has invited into her home while they adjust to their new life. Anne Ayella shared her advocacy work with Catholic Relief Services. We joined her in writing cards to our federal representatives supporting S 1580 (protecting girls’ access to education in vulnerable settings).

We reviewed our recent history and imagined with one another how we can co-create our future. Small groups reflected on concrete ways we can grow younger, build and sustain community – locally, nationally and internationally and live out the charism and mission. We did not come up with definitive answers but were blessed with a bounty of practical suggestions. We agreed that our founder’s advice to “meet the wants of the age” must be our guiding principle. “This is the way we’ve always done it” can only be a starting point!

The gathering was not all work. We prayed communally, steeped ourselves in the charism and spirituality of the Society. We gained a new appreciation of how our founder’s life has been interpreted, based on the “wants of the age” when books, videos, plays, etc. were composed. We received a gracious offer from the sisters to make Ignatian-directed retreats available to associates, with spiritual directors from among trained sisters and associates.

Sisters and associates enjoy an evening of wine and painting during a recent gathering.

And such enjoyable experiences of community! Like an evening of “Paint and Pinot” led by Associate Rita Fortner, who certainly brought out our inner Van Gogh! In addition to the United States associates and sisters, we were joined by two associates and two sisters from England, an associate from Chile and our Society leader, Sister Veronica Openibo, a member of the African Province. Our gathering coincided with the Sisters’ jubilee celebration, allowing us to pray and celebrate with sisters observing 25-75 years of vowed life. Connections abounded and deepened over the weekend and new ones were formed.

The gathering renewed and energized us to live the charism and mission with a love full of action and to share our heritage with a world sorely in need.
The Associate Dan Carey, Pittsburgh Passionists

The Passionist Associates of St. Paul of the Cross Province are affiliated in mission and ministry at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, Penn. They share below a synopsis of their activities and meeting held in 2017-2018.

Associate Yearly Highlights

The group opened with a time to reacquaint, regroup and rededicate to Passionist charism and spirituality.

Celebrating the founder’s feast, together with our local Passionist community who annually covenant to one another and the congregation, we covenanted for one year to the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. We were then joined by the West Virginia associates for celebration and dinner.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving we shared our experiences of being gifted and explored how we might share our gifts with the crucified of today.

In lieu of a formal meeting, we gathered with the Passionist community in their dining room for a festive lunch and socializing.

We decided to begin planning for a guided weekend retreat and a day of recollection and exploration of the lives and lessons of the Passionist saints.

We began exploring how we and other associates in the province might help to advance the cause for the canonization of the renowned and saintly Passionist Father Theodore Foley. His body is entombed in a sacred place in the monastery church reserved for prayer and reflection.

We had a festive celebration of St. Patrick’s Day with the local Passionist community.

Passionist Father Jerome Vereb shared some of his encyclopedic knowledge of the life and accomplishments of Passionist Father Theodore Foley.

Passionist Father Patrick Geinzer led us through the events and spiritual meaning of Marian apparitions.

We celebrated farewell with former rector Passionist Mark Ward and welcomed our newly elected rector Passionist Justin Kerber.
NACAR Congregations

Response by Dominican Sisters/Associate of Peace

Fierce Urgency of Now

Building Racial Harmony Planning Committee

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there “is” such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

Dr. Martin Luther King

In 1963 and again in 1967, Dr. King used these words to communicate an urgency for civil rights, “beyond Vietnam-a time to break the silence” and the “poor people’s campaign.” Today the reality remains that we as faith communities are still faced with “the fierce urgency of now.”

In 2018, LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) and NACAR proclaimed and affirmed a resolution recognizing racism as a systemic, structural cause underlying and contributing to multiple injustices:

“NACAR supports LCWR in their reaffirmation of the 2016 Assembly resolution to examine the root causes of injustice, particularly racism, and to work to effect systemic change. We encourage our NACAR members to work with their congregational leadership and to pledge to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.”

There are three themes apparent throughout this 18-program series:

The culture of encounter from Pope Francis

“A culture of encounter. For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others … with our faith we must create a culture of encounter, a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently. … They all have something in common with us: They are images of God. They are children of God.”

Pope Francis 5/18/13

The platform of peace from Maya Angelou

“On this platform of peace, we can create a language to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other. We, angels and mortals, believers and non-believers, look heavenward. And speak the word aloud. Peace. We look to the world and speak the word out loud. We look at each other, then into ourselves. And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation. Peace, my brother. Peace, my sister. Peace, my soul.”

Maya Angelou 2005

Above, the flyer for one of the events in the Building Racial Harmony program.
The Dominicans of Peace Chapter Commitment

“Create environments of peace by promoting non-violence, unity in diversity, and reconciliation among ourselves, in the Church and throughout the world at this moment in time by the following:

• Engage in a process to recognize our own unconscious biases, including racism, that undermine our community and personal relationships which will help us be more effective peacemakers in our local and global communities.

• Invite sisters and associates to address racism personally and collectively in an intercultural context through prayer, education/study and process that transforms our consciousness.

• Develop a program to become more aware of our biases and inner attitudes to recognize our own need to change in order to proactively create environments of peace where we are.”

Dominican Sisters of Peace, Assembly 2016

Building Racial Harmony is building community and generating action in Akron through the words of each speaker, the engaging participant conversations, the ecumenical prayers and the praise songs sung in unison. The communication among civic and church groups, the invitations to other racial justice events, are enhanced by these Dominicans of Peace outreach efforts. Building Racial Harmony was recognized by the Bishop Pilla Social Justice Award presented by the Catholic Commission of Summit County in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese to the Dominicans of Peace Community in December 2017.

From left, Sister Barbara Catalano, Associate Pat Schnee, Sister Valerie Shaul, Celeste Williams, Sister Cathy Arnold and Associate Colette Parker accepting the Bishop Pilla Social Justice Award.
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Associates & Candidates Gather

Associate Terri Butel, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, director of associates

Associates and candidates gathered July 30 and 31 to reflect upon the call of our Vincentian charism – to serve persons on the margin and to bridge the divide between abundance and need – in this liminal time.

Covenant Companion Jeanne Connolly, Wheaton Franciscans, guided us through a remarkable experience in which we had time to appreciate the past, reflect upon this new moment and personally commit to co-creating the future.

The two days were bookended by a jubilee celebration for two sisters on Sunday and an early celebration of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth community’s 160th anniversary. There is nothing like the energy of reunion; it refreshes the heart!
NACAR Congregations

Redemptorists of North America
Partnership in Mission

Anne Walsh, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer

In January 2018, the seven Redemptorist units of North America jointly engaged Anne Walsh as coordinator of Partnership in Mission. Anne was well-known to most of the Redemptorists, as well as the Redemptorist Associates and Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer. She had served as co-chair of the Redemptorist North American Secretariat for Partnership in Mission for a number of years. Anne hails from St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, in Canada. She has been active as in Redemptorist circles for more than 25 years and recently was appointed to the Redemptorist General Secretariat for Evangelization and the General Commission for Partnership in Mission, both based in Rome.

Anne’s new role involves working with each of the seven Redemptorist provinces and vice-provinces to encourage and support the establishment of circles of Redemptorist Associates; of course, this involves the formation of professed Redemptorists as well as the lay partners in mission. Anne works in close concert with the Redemptorist North American Secretariat for Partnership in Mission, a body which meets face-to-face once a year and as often as necessary by digital means. Each province or vice-province is currently in the process of establishing a working group or commission to coordinate partnership in mission at the unit level.

An initial retreat and workshop for the leaders or nuclei of these circles of Redemptorist Associates was held at the Redemptorist Retreat Centre in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, in October 2017. Since then, Anne has been visiting units and local communities, leading retreats, giving talks, offering formation sessions, developing resources and building relationships. Anne has created a handbook for Redemptorist Associates. As it has developed, this handbook now takes the form of a binder, filled with resources. There is, of course, a digital version of the same material.

The North American Secretariat, working with Liguori Publications, has just published a small, pocket-sized prayer book and formation resource as an introduction to Redemptorist spirituality. It is entitled Living Redemptorist Spirituality and is being well-received.

A new monthly newsletter, “Together for Mission,” keeps partners in mission up to date on events. In addition, there is a FaceBook page that gives day-to-day updates on current events and happenings around the world.

This is a very exciting time to be involved in partnership in mission in the Redemptorist world, and we are very hopeful as we look to the future.
Coming Events

WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE A NACAR MEMBER!

Associate Terri Butel, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, director of associates

As a director of associates, helping my associates gain confidence and skills in participating in and leading small faith communities is a priority. NACAR members are blessed because it’s NACAR’s priority too! Have you taken a minute to check out the new reduced-cost courses that are available to NACAR member associates and sisters through a partnership with the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation?

The first session of 2019 begins January 20, 2019; there are 38 courses in English and 11 in Spanish! A number of these are intended for those teaching Catechism, but take a peek at a few objective and scheduled topics for two of the courses offered next session:

Images of Jesus
• Describe the key images of Jesus that emerge from a careful reading of the Gospels.
• Describe the five historical periods in the development of the Church’s beliefs about Jesus.

Introduction to Scripture
• Understand the main mistakes to avoid while reading and interpreting the Bible.
• Explain the similarities and differences in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Bibles.

It’s cruel to hint at the wonderful learning these classes offer when I can’t take all of them! I did sign up for this class which began Oct 21: Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life. According to the description, “this course introduces a way to go beneath day-to-day events to find meaning within them … and to invite an awareness of the abiding presence of God.”

I think this will provide fresh ideas for reflection at our associate gatherings.

If you’ve never experienced an online course, it may seem intimidating, but it is easy and convenient. All you need is an internet connection and computer. Any time of day or night, whenever you log in, you’re in class. Most courses take only several hours a week.

Registration is open now and closes January 16, 2019, so don’t wait! With the holidays closing in today is a great day to enroll — you may also need to order a textbook (there are great deals for used texts online).

All you need to know is found on the NACAR website – be sure to read how to register on the Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation website so you receive the discounted rates: nacar.org/resources/vlcff.html

You can also take a few minutes to watch a video announcing the NACAR partnership:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNrRKKqtmTA

The future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens.
Rainer Maria Rilke
Coming Events

**CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS 2018-2019**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**
1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Pacific
**Associates at a Distance – How Do You Stay in Touch?**
Facilitators: Kathy Noether, Lori Ritz and Germaine Little Bear

**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**
1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Pacific
**Advisory boards/Core Committees/Governing Boards/et al:**
**Keeping Them Diverse and Engaged**
Facilitator: Terri Butel

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019**
1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Pacific
**Using Social Media to Promote Association**
Facilitator: Mark Piper

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**
1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Pacific
**Best Practices of Facilitating Conversation in a Group**
Facilitator: Sister Rita Woehlcke

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**
1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Pacific
**Dealing with Serious Associate Matters**
Facilitators: Amy Kulesa and Terri Butel

For more information or to register, contact the NACAR office at 253.256.2227 or info@nacar.org

**SAVE THE DATE: ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

**Associate Leadership Retreat**
May 13–16, 2019
Sister of St. Joseph Janet Mock
Passionist Retreat Center, Houston, Texas
NACAR Individual Membership Application

Individual membership is designed for any individual who has a desire to keep informed of trends, information and resources regarding the associate movement in North America and who desires to support the efforts of NACAR and the associate-religious movement. Individual members must have an email address in order to receive communications. See NACAR Individual Membership for a full listing of benefits.

Contact Information: ☐ Associate ☐ Religious ☐ Other

First Name: ____________________ Last Name: ______________________________________
Prefix __________ (e.g. Sr. Br. Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Rev. Deacon)        Suffix __________
Name of Religious Community (if applicable): ______________________________________
Position Title (if applicable): ____________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________________ State/Prov: __________________________
Zip/Postal Code________________________ Country: ________________________________
Ph (W): ____________________ (H): (____)________________(C): (____)________________
Email: ______________________________________________________________________

***Must have email address to receive any communications from the NACAR Office.

My community is a NACAR member. Dues $25 __________
My community is NOT a NACAR members. Dues $75 __________
Donation to support NACAR __________
Total amount enclosed __________

Email or mail your forms to the NACAR address below. Postal mail your dues (US currency only please) or go to http://nacar.org/individual-membership-dues-for-2017-2018.html to pay by credit card or PayPal.

You may also complete this form and pay online at: http://nacar.org/members/membershipinfo/individual-membership-application.html

NACAR
5900 Delhi Road
Mt. St. Joseph, OH 45051-1500
Email: info@nacar.org
Website: www.nacar.org
Phone: 253-256-2227

For office use only: Membership # _______________
Date Rec. _____________ Ck # ___________________ Entered/Ackn’d _______________

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What is NACAR?
The North American Conference of Associates and Religious is a membership organization that acts as a catalyst to serve, empower and promote the associate-religious relationship. NACAR remains the only professional organization to support and serve associates and vowed members as associates proclaim their call to live the charism of their religious communities.

What is the purpose of NACAR?
The purpose of NACAR is to encourage networking and mutual support for; to identify and explore issues relevant to the associate/religious relationship; to serve as a clearing-house for the sharing of resources and talents especially for associate spiritual growth; to provide a vision for the future of associate/religious relationship as the people of God; and to assist in policy and guideline development to support the Associate way of life.

Who is eligible for an Individual Membership in NACAR?
Individual membership is designed for someone who has a desire to keep informed of trends, information, and resources regarding the associate movement in North America and also desires to support the efforts of NACAR and the associate-religious movement. Individual members must have an email address in order to receive communications.

What are the benefits of an Individual Membership in NACAR?
Most importantly, it provides you with the opportunity to be part of the larger Associate-Religious movement across North America and to witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our world today. Membership also provides:

1. Opportunity to directly receive information on trends and resources regarding the Associate movement.
2. Discounted fee to workshops, conferences and webinars.
3. Access to Leadership Manual; Rookies Rock; and CARA study at discounted rate.
4. Access to Member section of NACAR website including the consultant directory.
5. Reception of monthly e-newsletter from the Board of Directors.
6. Reception of The Associate e-magazine three times a year.
7. Forum to address issues that impact Associate-Religious life.
8. Opportunities for continuing education, leadership development and professional growth.
10. Access to postings of Prayer Requests on the NACAR website.
11. Listing in online Membership Directory.
12. Listing in Consultant Directory if desired.
13. Assistance in connecting with regional associate groups throughout North America.
14. Connection to other associates.

What are the yearly fees for an Individual Membership?
Individual membership is $75 annually (July 1-June 30) if you do not belong to a community that is NACAR community member. It is $25 annually if you belong to a community that is a NACAR community member.

How do I access the Member Only section of the website?
To register on the website: Go to www.nacar.org, click on register and follow the prompts. If you need assistance, contact webadmin@nacar.org.

Please note: To register for the NACAR website you must be either an individual member or one of the listed members for your community. Registration for the website is a separate process from becoming a member.